

NESHAPS

(National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants)

November 2004

Anchor Lead:

There are BILLIONS of reasons why it's important for the U.S. Army and the E-P-A to work together. And, each one is green. The partnership not only benefits the environment, but benefits the soldier. Environmental correspondent Jesse McGill reports...

Jesse McGill/ Environmental Correspondent:

NESHAPS...National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. It may sound like a mouthful of government bureaucracy, but considering the benefits it offers to the soldier and the U.S. Army, it is a giant leap forward in the way the Army does business.

Anniston Army Depot is home to one of the Army's largest industrial facilities, refurbishing thousands of tactical vehicles a year. With that comes rebuilding, resurfacing, repainting, and degreasing. The result of these activities can be hazardous air pollutants. And the Army wants to ensure that they are taking every precaution to protect the environment and its workforce while fulfilling our mission.

Paul Josephson/ Environmental Engineer/ USAEC:

The purpose of these rules is to protect public health, it's to protect yours and my health.

Lee Merrill/ Compliance Branch Chief/ AEC: The NESHAPS program is just part of the Clean Air Act program, it deals with Hazardous Air Pollutants...
...Our biggest effort is going into developing new surface coatings...

John Larkins/ Protection Specialist/ Air Compliance Tech./ ANAD: There are several important changes in the way that we do surface coating or painting now. Probably one of the quickest things that we were able to do is to change the kind of paint guns that we use, from a conventional paint gun to a high velocity, low pressure paint gun.

This type of paint gun delivers the same type of coating but uses less paint to hit the target. Less paint means less emissions from the paint, further protecting the the environment and workforce. And this is just one example. The U.S. Army is also working to limit carcinogens and chemical pollutants.

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Paul Josephson/ Environmental Engineer/ AEC: The Army has poured millions of dollars into research into making our paints less damaging to the environment...

The surface coatings also last longer, are more scratch resistant, (while still camouflaging our troops) but will be water based or made from some other chemical that isn't as hazardous.

John Larkins/ Protection Specialist/ Air Compliance Tech./ ANAD: Working together with the E-P-A we believe we can maximize the reductions in the hazardous air pollutants and at the same time minimize the difficulty the Army and all of the Department of Defense is going to have in the rule making process.

By partnering with the E-P-A, over the next 20 years, the U.S. Army is going to save about a BILLION dollars, proving that not only can we work together to be good stewards of the environment, but we can safely provide our soldiers the equipment they need as well.

Jesse McGill, Anniston Army Depot, Alabama